

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR125-02-07

BLM Coos Bay District Office

Lease/Serial/Case file No. N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Hind Quarter Tailhold Request

Location of Proposed Action: T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sec. 11

Applicant: Port Blakely Tree Farms

Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan: This proposed action is subject to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its Record of Decision (Interagency, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1601.5.

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); hereby incorporated by reference.

Need for Proposed Action: Port Blakely Tree Farms has requested authorization to attach cables on tailhold anchors and lift trees on BLM land adjacent to a harvest unit on private lands. As an adjacent owner, BLM must either approve or deny their request. Appropriate mitigation measures may be a condition of use.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant is in the process of conducting timber harvest in a unit located in Sec. 12 of T. 27 S., R. 12 W. (see attached map). The applicant, Port Blakely Tree Farms, proposes to use stumps or live trees on BLM land for tailholds and lift trees for cable yarding corridors on the private land.

Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:

Critical Element	Affected		Critical Element	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	—	<u>X</u>
ACECs	—	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	—	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	—	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	—	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>

Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment: The proposed tailhold anchors and lift trees are located in the GFMA land use allocation. The applicant is planning to conduct regeneration harvest including felling, yarding, and hauling. All road construction has been completed and the haul route is located on private land. The stand age is approximately 50 years.

Use of tailholds on BLM will allow for increased suspension of logs when lift trees are used along the boundary of the timber sale unit. If the request is denied, the purchaser could use the stumps or trees located on private land, however there will be no suspension of logs near the end of the logging corridors. Port Blakely has proposed to use tree straps or other devices to protect the cambium of live trees they will be attaching too. No motorized equipment will be used on BLM land except for possible short term chainsaw operation to clear brush and lower limbs away from the tailhold anchor trees or to cut notches in stumps. Trees that may be girdled, either as tailholds or lift trees, will be left on site for snag habitat.

There is no suitable nesting habitat for either the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, or bald eagle within 0.25 miles adjacent to where the tailholds would be located on BLM land. No disturbance to Survey and Manage species habitat will occur through the use of BLM trees or stumps. Use of government trees will not directly affect any threatened or endangered species located within the proposed project area on federal land and no adverse impacts will occur to these species through an authorization allowing use of BLM trees. Yarding operations are expected to begin in January of 2002 and will be completed in the summer of 2002. Other comments and input for fisheries, wildlife, and cultural resources are attached to this EA.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts: Prevent damage to the guyline anchors by avoiding putting deep notches into the cambium and utilize tree straps to prevent girdling from the cable..

Preparers/reviewers:	Kathy Wall	Wildlife Biologist
	Aimee E. B. Hoefs	Fisheries Biologist
	Estella Morgan	Botanist
	Stephen Samuels	Cultural Resources
	Scott Knowles	Noxious Weeds, Environmental Justice
	Jon Menten	Forest Management Specialist

Date: January 16, 2001

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to authorize the use of Federal land as described in the Description of the Proposed Action section with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures: Prevent damage to the guyline anchors by avoiding putting deep notches into the cambium and utilize tree straps to prevent girdling from the cable.

Field Manager
Umpqua Resource Area

Date

Dennis Wallman
93905 Beaver Creek Road
P. O. Box 1177
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Dear Mr. Wallman ,

This letter is in response to your request dated December 13, 2001, regarding the use of live trees or stumps for tailholds and lift trees on BLM land in the east half of Section 11 of T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Hind Quarter. Use of government trees is authorized providing you apply the following condition:

Prevent damage to live trees by using tree straps or other devices to prevent girdling from the cable. If trees are notched to prevent slippage of the cable, keep the notch as low on the tree as possible.

If you anticipate problems in meeting these conditions, we will be available to meet with you on the site to discuss options that will meet our concern to protect the existing stand while allowing for a feasible timber harvest operation. If it becomes necessary to fall government timber to conduct safe harvest operations, subsequent authorization must be received prior to cutting government timber. If trees belonging to the government are damaged beyond recovery in the course of yarding operations, we request that trees be left on site. If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Jon Menten at 751-4232, at the Coos Bay District Office.

Sincerely,

M. Elaine Raper
Umpqua Field Manager

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, Oregon 97459-2000

5400

Project Inspection Report

Project Name: Hind Quarter Tailhold Request
Project Location: T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sec. 11
BLM Photo No: 23-26-167 (1997)
Applicant:: Dennis Wallman
Port Blakely tree Farm
93905 Beaver Creek Road
P. O. Box 1177
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Date:

Remarks:
